

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/849,038

Examiner

Pierre M. Vital

Applicant(s)

OKAMOTO ET AL.

Art Unit

2188

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amdt filed 3/16/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3,4,8-10,13,14 and 18-20 renumbered 1-10.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Carl I. Brundidge (Reg. No. 29,621) on April 3, 2006.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 3:

Line 9, before write, change "controls" to --control--;

Line 10, before notification, change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 13, after "which", change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 19, before "are", change "section" to --sections--.

In claim 4:

Line 9, before write, change "controls" to --control--;

Line 10, before notification, change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 13, after "which", change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 19, before "are", change "section" to --sections--.

In claim 8:

Line 9, before write, change "controls" to --control--;

Line 10, before notification, change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 13, after "which", change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 19, before "are", change "section" to --sections--.

In claim 9:

Line 9, before write, change "controls" to --control--;

Line 10, before notification, change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 13, after "which", change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 19, before "are", change "section" to --sections--.

In claim 10:

Line 9, before write, change "controls" to --control--;

Line 10, before notification, change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 13, after "which", change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 19, before "are", change "section" to --sections--.

In claim 13:

Line 10, before write, change "controls" to --control--;

Line 11, before notification, change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 14, after "which", change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 20, before "are", change "section" to --sections--.

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In claim 14:

Line 10, before write, change "controls" to --control--;

Line 11, before notification, change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 14, after "which", change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 20, before "are", change "section" to --sections--.

In claim 18:

Line 10, before write, change "controls" to --control--;

Line 11, before notification, change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 14, after "channel", insert --control--;

Line 14, after "which", change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 20, before "are", change "section" to --sections--;

Line 38, after "further", change "comprise" to --comprises--.

In claim 19:

Line 10, before write, change "controls" to --control--;

Line 11, before notification, change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 14, after "which", change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 20, before "are", change "section" to --sections--.

Line 37, after "further", change "comprise" to --comprises--.

In claim 20:

Line 10, before write, change "controls" to --control--;

Line 11, before notification, change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 14, after "which", change "receives" to --receive--;

Line 20, before "are", change "section" to --sections--.

Line 37, after "further", change "comprise" to --comprises--.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record, namely Honda (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0250021) and Atsushi (JP 2003-141824), does not teach or render obvious the invention as claimed in claims 3-4, 8-10, 13-14 and 18-20. This application is allowed solely for the reasons put forth on pages 21-22 in the Remarks filed March 16, 2006.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pierre M. Vital whose telephone number is (571) 272-4215. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 6:00 pm, alternate Fridays off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mano Padmanabhan can be reached on (571) 272-4210. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

April 3, 2006


PIERRE VITAL
PRIMARY EXAMINER